

From: Frank Carreiro
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Just a quick note regarding the settlement with Microsoft Corp.

I am rather disappointed with the DOJ. Despite the facts behind the case and a higher court supporting the facts, I was hoping Microsoft would be penalized for exercising regularly their monopoly powers. How many people do you know running Microsoft products? How many run alternative operating systems. Now we have Windows XP. At \$300 a copy I'm outraged. Over time products usually get better and cheaper for the home user. Not in this case. I believe this is the most Microsoft has charged for an operating system to date.

Fortunately there are a large number of people walking away from Microsoft. I am now running RedHat Linux 7.x for over 90% of my computer usage these days. At every opportunity I push Linux as a solution simply because it's high quality software without the Microsoft bugs. Someday we all should have the joy of working on a computer that is reasonably priced and very productive.

Speaking of which. I do run a couple of SAMBA servers (www.samba.org) which permit me to connect my friends computers and communicate with them. If I am reading this deal correctly SAMBA and every other product in Linux which can communicate with Windows will be killed. Some deal. Giving Microsoft MORE power to monopolize the world? I don't believe this has been well thought through. I would strongly suggest everyone pay closer attention to what is going on here. Also the not for profit organizations such as Apache would be in great jeopardy.

Section III(J)(2) concerns me a great deal. You may wish to re-read it as it seems to allow Microsoft to define what is a business (well.. just about). Right now the biggest threat to Microsoft is open source software. I think we all understand just how well Microsoft's security by obscurity has worked in the last few years. Pathetic would be kind in my estimation. Certainly the other OS's have their share of problems however it IS easier to troubleshoot and fix problems with 10,000 people looking at the code over 100 people doing the same work. Over time it becomes harder and harder for bugs to creep in as more people get involved.

In closing I don't believe splitting the company into two entities will solve the problem at hand however the other end of the spectrum also does not resolve our concerns with Microsoft. Some middle ground must be reached. Microsoft must not be allowed to continue operating as they have in the past. Ma Bell and the oil companies from the early 1900's were not allowed to continue their monopolistic practices after the courts ruled against them. Why should Microsoft be allowed?

There are better alternatives to Microsoft which are just as difficult to learn and use. Give them a chance to prove themselves. I believe the economy will turn around as they contribute in their own way. Other countries have learned what open source can give them. Let us be leaders and not followers in technology. Else we will be eating their dust in the years to come.

Frank Carreiro